

Claims

1. A tactile guidance means to provide guidance to a person, said tactile guidance means having a plurality of tactile features for tactile interrogation when in contact with a sensory part of the person, and characterised in that said tactile features are provided in a first form (2) to identify a doorway or passage location through which the person should proceed, and at least a second form (5) to indicate a direction to be followed subsequent to passing through said doorway or passage.
2. A tactile guidance means according to claim 1 characterised in that said means is provided as a plate to be affixed to a supporting medium.
3. A tactile guidance means according to claim 1 characterised in that said first form (2) of said tactile features have a rounded outer surface for contact by the person.
4. A tactile guidance means according to claim 3 characterised in that said tactile features are hemispherical.
5. A tactile guidance means according to claim 1 characterised in that said second form (5) of said tactile features include a definable interface between first and second faces.
6. A tactile guidance means according to claim 5 characterised in that the interface is in the form of a definable edge.
7. A tactile guidance means according to claim 6 characterised in that the first face is longer in dimension than the second face to form a substantially wedge shaped feature.

8. A tactile guidance means according to claim 7 characterised in that contacting the said feature and following the first face in the direction towards the interface indicates the direction to be followed by the person subsequent to passing through the doorway or passage.

9. A tactile guidance means according to claim 1 characterised in that said tactile guidance means is provided with illumination means (3) to illuminate one or more sections of said tactile guidance means.

10. A tactile guidance means according to claim 1 characterised in that said first form (2) and second form (5) of said tactile features are mounted directly on a support medium.

11. A tactile guidance means according to claim 1 characterised in that said tactile guide features are mounted on a plate or support medium in a manner to, in use, prevent rotational movement of said tactile guide features.

12 A tactile guidance means situated adjacent a doorway or passage through which a person is to pass, said means including a first tactile form (2) to indicate the presence of the doorway or passage and that the user should pass through the same and a second tactile form (5) to indicate the direction to be followed by the person having gone through said doorway or passage.

13 A tactile guidance means according to any of the preceding claims wherein the tactile guidance means are raised, indented or otherwise distinguished from the adjacent surface.

14 A tactile guidance means according to any of the preceding claims wherein the guidance means is attached to or provided on

a door which closes the doorway or passage through which the person is indicated to pass by the guidance means.

15 A tactile guidance means according to any of the preceding claims wherein the guidance means is attached to or provided on a support medium adjacent the doorway or passage.

16 A tactile guidance means to provide guidance to a person, said tactile guidance means having at least one tactile feature for tactile interrogation when in contact with a sensory part of the person, and said at least one tactile feature is provided in a first form (2) to identify a doorway or passage location through which the person should proceed and characterised in that said guidance means is attached to or provided on a door which is positioned at the doorway or passage through which the person is indicated to pass by said first form of tactile features.

17 A tactile guidance means according to claim 16 characterised in that the guidance means include a second form of tactile features which indicate a direction to be followed once the person has passed through the doorway or passage.

18 A method of directing a person by tactile guidance including the steps of:

- providing a tactile guidance means having a plurality of tactile features for tactile interrogation;

- contacting a first form (2) of tactile feature provided to identify a doorway or passage through which the person is to move;

- contacting at least a second form (5) of tactile feature to indicate a direction to be followed subsequent to passing through said doorway or passage; characterised by proceeding through said doorway;

and proceeding in a direction as indicated by said at least second form (2)

19 A method according to claim 18 characterised in that the distance to proceed in said direction is indicated by the configuration of said at least second form (5) of said tactile indicators.